

REMARKS

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Chapman et al. (U.S. 6,875,543) in view of Han et al. (U.S. 2004/0091789).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner.

Claims 1-7 and 8-13

Claims 1-7 and 8-13 describe embodiments of Applicant's claimed invention that include a method in which a multilayer mirror (1200) is not removed over a substrate (1100).

In an embodiment, the method of Applicant's claimed invention may form an attenuated phase-shifting mask. See paragraph [0057] on page 11 of the specification. Also, see Figure 2C.

In another embodiment, the method of Applicant's claimed invention may form an alternating phase-shifting mask. See paragraph [0077] on page 14 of the specification. Also, see Figure 3D.

In contrast, the multilayer coating is etched away in portions of the phase-shifting mask of Chapman et al. and the reflective mask of Han et al.

Consequently, Applicant submits that the Chapman et al. reference and the Han et al. reference cited by the Examiner, whether individually or collectively, do not teach, suggest, or render obvious the invention as claimed by Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) to claims 1-7 and 8-13.

Claims 14-20

Claims 14-20 describe embodiments of Applicant's claimed invention that include a structure in which a multilayer mirror (1200) remains intact over a substrate (1100).

In an embodiment, the structure of Applicant's claimed invention may include an attenuated phase-shifting mask. See paragraph [0057] on page 11 of the specification. Also, see Figure 2C.

In another embodiment, the structure of Applicant's claimed invention may include an alternating phase-shifting mask. See paragraph [0077] on page 14 of the specification. Also, see Figure 3D.

In contrast, portions of the multilayer coating are absent in the phase-shifting mask of Chapman et al. and the reflective mask of Han et al.

Consequently, Applicant submits that the Chapman et al. reference and the Han et al. reference cited by the Examiner, whether individually or collectively, do not teach, suggest, or render obvious the invention as claimed by Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) to claims 14-20.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all claims pending, including original claims 1-20, are now in condition for allowance so such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.